Scheme of Licensed Postal Agents carried within itself a certain degree of self-employment potential though, since the Scheme is being developed according to requirements assessed from time to time and not to a pre-determined target, it is not practicable to quantify this self-employment potential as at the end of the Seventh Plan.

(a) to (d) *Telecommunication Services*: The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Allotment of wavelength for information vending business**

1673. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the present policy, Government allots a particular wavelength to private organisations for information vending and computerised data retrieval business through satellites, if so, what are the terms for allotment of wavelength giving other details in this regard; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider allotment of wavelengths for information vending business, in view of the overall information explosion world over; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. Allocations of a particular wavelength(s) or radio frequency channel(s) to private organisations for applactions like information vending, computerised data retrieval through satellite are not made. These requirements are met subject to technical feasibility, by the Department of Telecommunications or the Videsh Sanchar Nigam, on a commercial basis. The Department of Telecommunications and Videsh Sanchar Nigam are allotted wavelength(s) or radio frequency channel(s) for this purpose.

(b) Does not airse in view of (a) above.

**Manufacture of pollution monitoring equipment**

1674. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of industrial units in India engaged in manufacturing of pollution monitoring equipment;

(b) whether Government propose to encourage the industry manufacturing pollution monitoring equipment by giving special benefits and incentives in view of the importance assumed by pollution control measures; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage service agencies engaged exclusively in pollution-control and effluent management by giving special benefits and incentives; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether this Ministry has, in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, worked out any diploma or degree course in the areas of pollution control, effluent management and refuge-treatment, purification of toxic gases, relief and rescue operations in the event of environmental hazards etc.; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) A list of industrial units in the public and priavte sector whcih are engaged in the manufacturing of pollution monitoring equipment is given in the enclosed statement (*see* below). Instruments/equipments manufactured by these units relate to stack monitoring, ambient water and air quality monitoring and analysis of inorganic and organic chemicals.

(b) and (c) There is no scheme for providing special benefits and incentives to the industry manufacturing pollution control equipment and service agencies engaged in pollution control and effluent management. However, incentives in terms of tax rebate and loans at reduced rates of interest are provided to the industries for installation of pollution control equipment;

(d) No, Sir; However, for professional training in various aspects of pollution control, Courses on Environmental Sciences and Engineering have been introduced in several universities and technical institutions. These include: the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Jadavpur University, Calcutta, Waltair University, Andhra Pradesh and Madras University.

**Statement**

*List of Industrial Units Manufacturing Pollution Monitoring Eqipment*

1. M/s. Associated Instruments Manufacturers (India) Pvt. Ltd., Delhi
2. M/s. Toshniwal Instruments (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
3. M/s. Netal Chromotographs, Thane.
4. Chemito Instruments Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.
5. Enviro-Tech Instrument Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
6. Electronics Corporation India Ltd., Hyderabad.
7. M/s. Chromotograph and Instruments Co., Baroda.
8. M/s. Century Instrument (P) Ltd, Chandigarh.
9. M/s. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota.
10. M/s. Micro-Electronics, Madras.
11. M/s. Assotex Electronics, Bombay.
12. M/s. Teledyne Ray, Calcutta.
13. M/s. Systronics, Ahmedabad.
14. M/s. Elico P.tv Ltd., Hyderabad.
15. M/s. S.F. India Ltd., Calcutta.

**Facing the environmental hazard**

1675. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the reports appearing in a section of the press that India is likely to face a big environmental hazard due to the fact that (1) India is losing 1.5 million hectares of forest land every year; (2) the area under Forests is reduced from 74 million hectares to a mere 40 million hectares; (3) approximatey 200 crore tonnes of fertile soils are washed away every year; (4) more than half the population of the country faces drinking water crisis during summer months; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what concrete schemes Government have to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Government are aware of the reports regarding the loss of forest lands, the washing away of top soil and drinking water scarcity in parts of the country due to various causes.

(b) The following measures have been taken to maintain ecological balance in the country:—

(1) The emphasis in all forestry programmes today is laid on conservation and increased plantation efforts.

(2) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted with a view to minimise diversion of forest land for non-forest use.

(3) The State Governments have been advised to ban all feelings above 1000 metres in the hills and to restrict clear felling of the natural forests.

(4) The National Wastelands Development Board has been set up to accelerate afforestation activities on wastelands and degraded forest lands.

(5) Peoples participation has been increased through Farm Forestry and decentralised nurseries.

**I.A.S., I.P.S. officers on deputations to undertakings**

1676. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS, IPS and other Central cadre personnels who have gone